

**State Road 46 at State Road 11  
New Interchange Bridge  
Over the Louisville and Indiana Railroad**

**DES# 1700139**

**Columbus, Indiana  
Wednesday, May 29, 2019  
6 p.m.**

Please silence electronic devices.

# Agenda

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- Welcome & Introductions
- Formal Public Hearing
  - Presentations
  - Public Statements for the Record
  - Adjourn Formal Hearing

Invited to the display area for Q & A with the project team



# Why a Public Hearing?

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- Conducted as a requirement to the **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**
  - NEPA requires evaluation of potential impacts to surrounding natural, cultural, and social environments.
  - Impacts are described in an environmental document.
  - Requires opportunity for the public to be involved and comment in the decision-making process of said impacts.



# Environmental Document

- Categorical Exclusion Level 4
- Released for Public Involvement on April 23, 2019
- Published Legal Notice
  - The Republic
  - Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019
- Announcing the public hearing and the location where the document is available for review



# How Can You Participate?

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- **Verbally as a Public Statement**
  - Statements are recorded
- **Comment Form**
  - Submit via mail, fax, or drop box
- **Email – [mwright@indot.in.gov](mailto:mwright@indot.in.gov)**
- **Comment Period ends**
  - Wednesday, June 12, 2019

Please feel free to use any and all methods.

# How Will Comments be Addressed?

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- All comments will be addressed in the **Final Environmental Documents** as a result of:
  - The public statements recorded at a public hearing.
  - All written comments, concerns, and suggestions such as letters, faxes, and emails received during the comment period.

Informal comments are always welcome, however, please note general conversations are not part of the official record.

# Environmental Studies

## Areas of environmental impacts

- **Right-of-way**
- Hazardous Materials
- **Threatened & Endangered Species**
- Historic & Archaeological
- Community Impacts
- **Farmland**
- **Floodplains**
- Land Use
- Wetlands & Waterways
- Noise
- Air Quality
- **Public Involvement**
  - **Public Hearing**



# Right-of-Way

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- Proposed 50.1 acres of permanent new right-of-way (ROW)
  - 40.5 Acres of Agricultural
  - 6.4 Acres of Forest/Trees
  - 1.0 Acre of Commercial
  - 2.2 Acre of Misc.
- Early Acquisition
  - Acquired through MAP-21 FHWA Streamlining Process
- No Relocations
  - No Condemnations

# Environmental Impacts

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- Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat
  - Tree clearing activities
  - Mitigated via The Conservation Fund (TCF)
    - Range-wide In-Lieu Fee Program
    - The amount determined by the Habitat Block Method
      - Calculated by a compensatory price per acre

# Project History

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- 2012 – L&I and CSX railroads announce plans for joint use of the tracks
- 2013 – Railroads completed Environmental Assessment
- 2014 – On-going discussions Between INDOT and the City to address the problem
- 2015 – City of Columbus completes a Railroad Impact Study
- 2016 – INDOT considers project application
- 2017 – State of Indiana and City of Columbus announce a jointly funded project

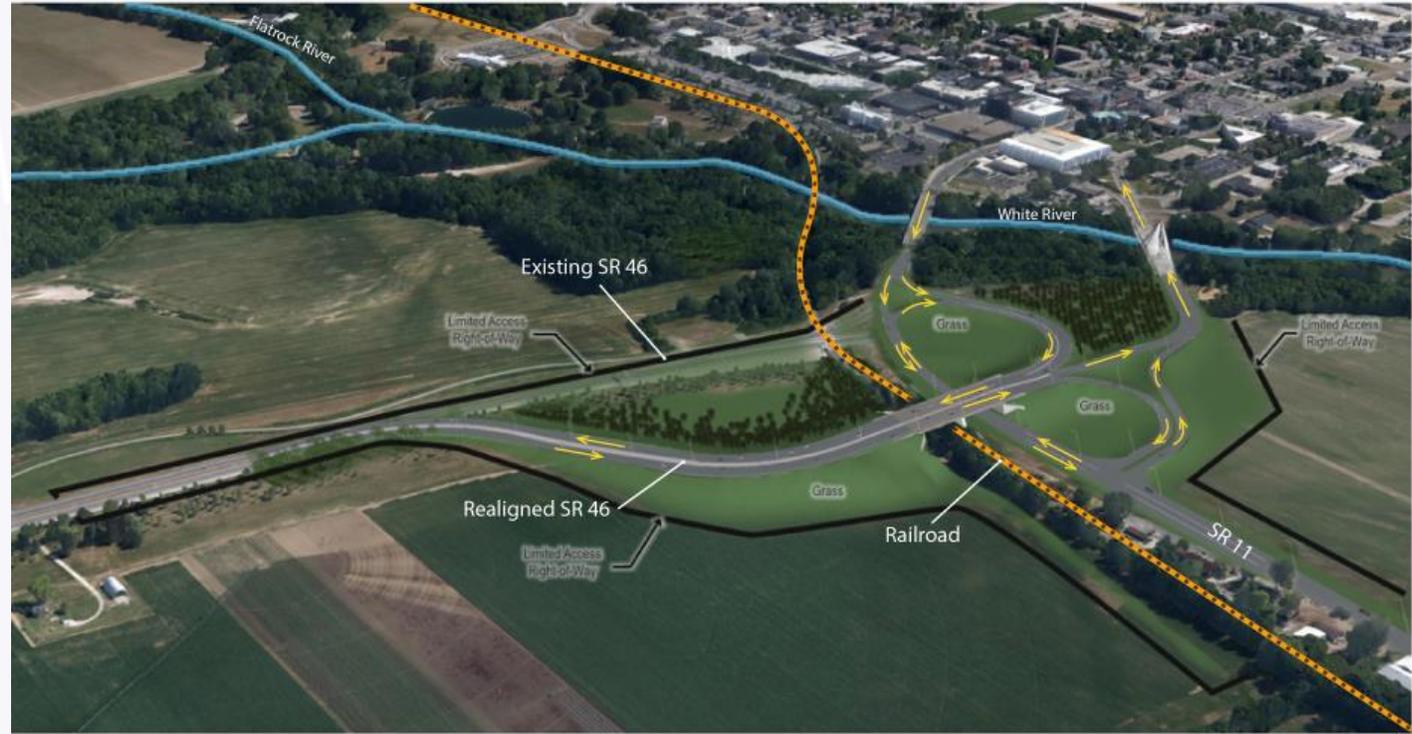
# Purpose and Need

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- Trains volumes expected to increase from an average of two per day to 17 per day.
- Train lengths expected to increase from an average of 5,000 feet to 7,500 feet.
- At current rates, vehicle delays at the crossing will grow from 67 vehicle-hours to 716 vehicle-hours.
- Especially in the P.M. peak hours, the State Road 46/S.R. 11 traffic signal operates at unacceptable levels of average delay per vehicle.
- The Purpose of this project is to reduce vehicular delays at both the train crossing and the traffic signal.

# Alternatives Considered

- Retain an At-Grade Crossing
- Route S.R. 46 Under the Railroad
- Keep S.R. 46 on Alignment
- Re-Align S.R. 46 to the North
- Overpass with Interchange



# Key Design Criteria

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- Speed Transitions
- Existing White River Bridges
- S.R. 11 Property Access
- Floodplain Impacts
- Farmland Impacts



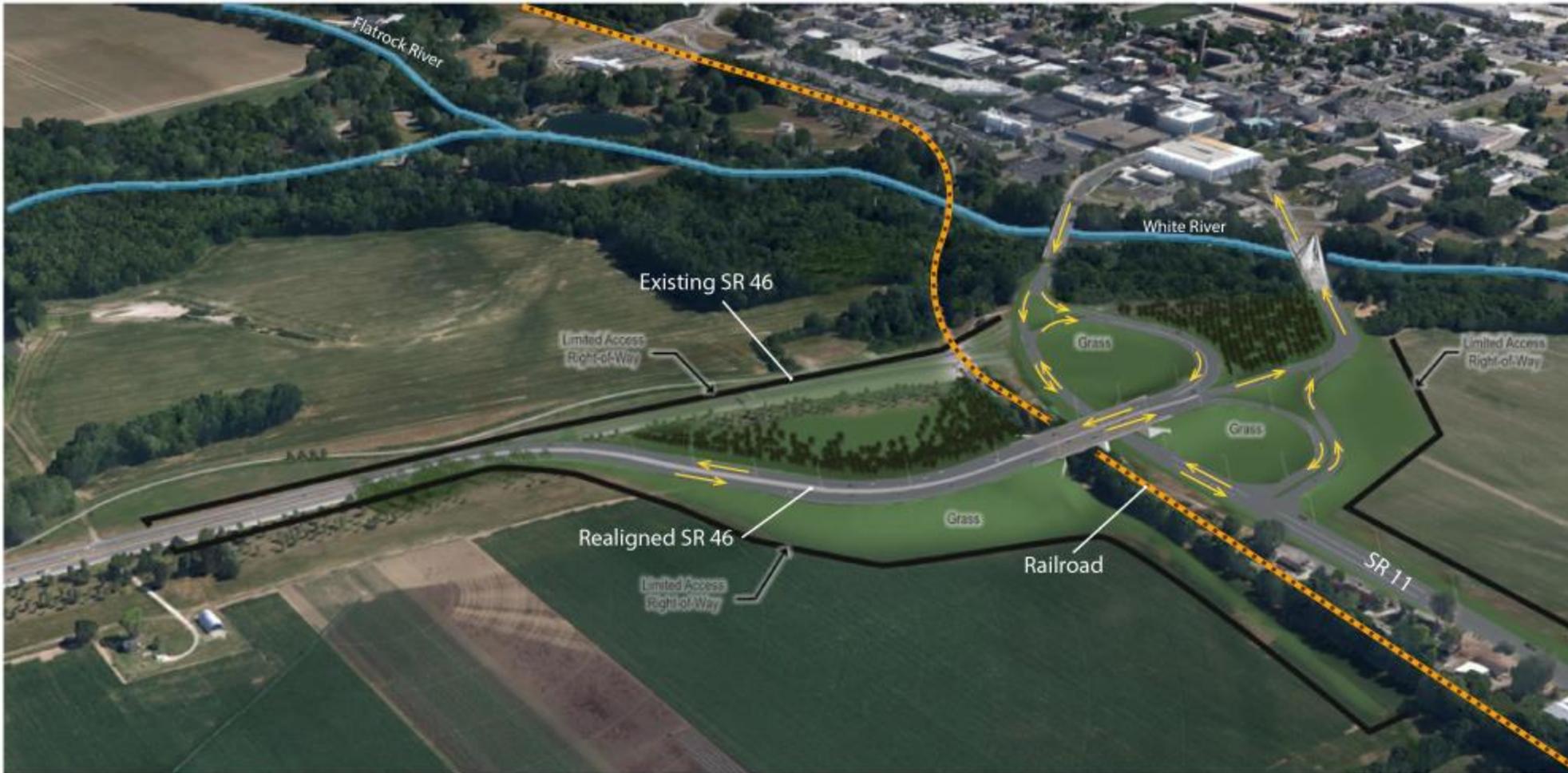
# Overpass with Interchange Alternative



# Overpass with Interchange Alternative



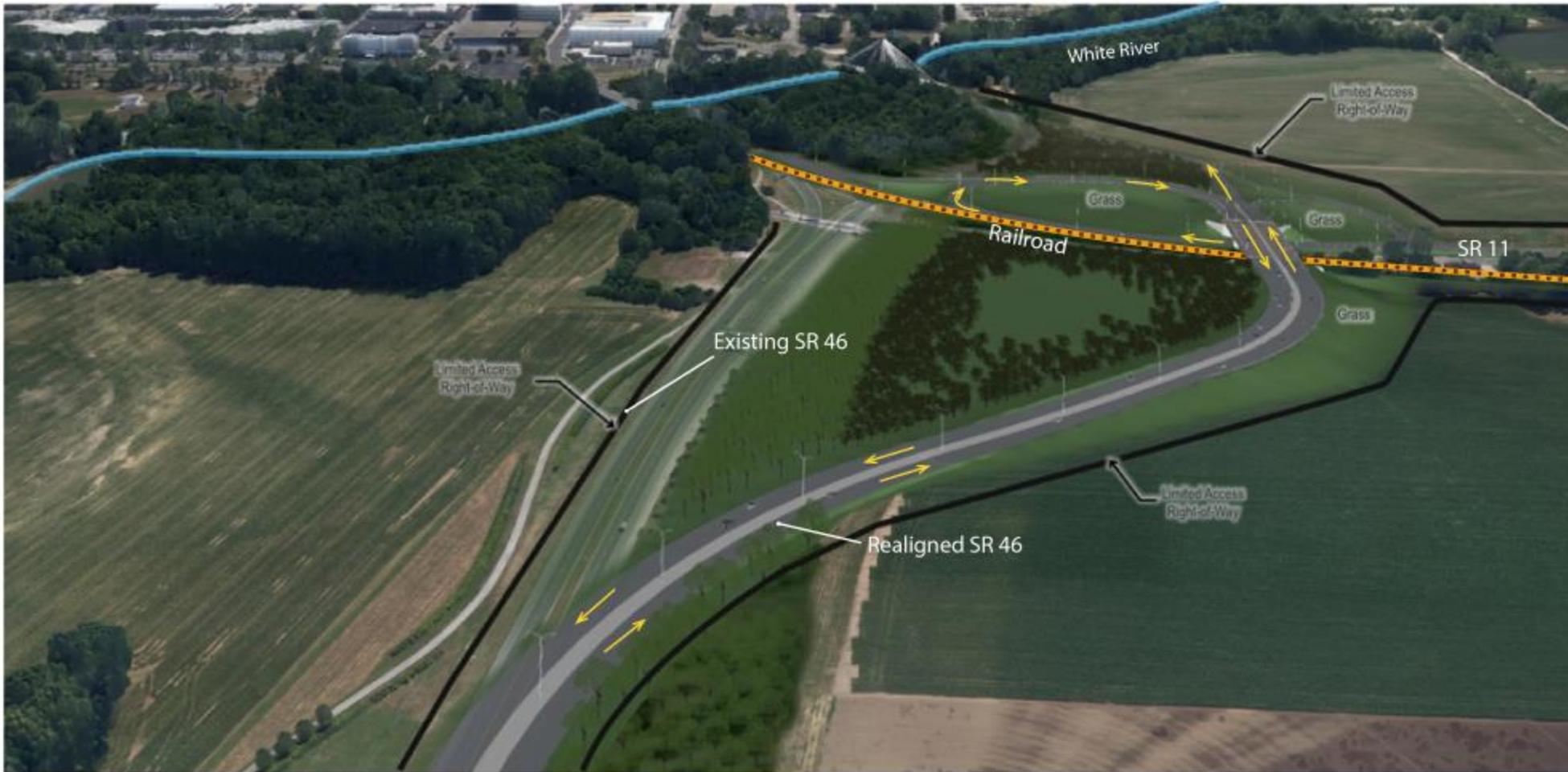
# Overpass with Interchange Alternative (Preferred)



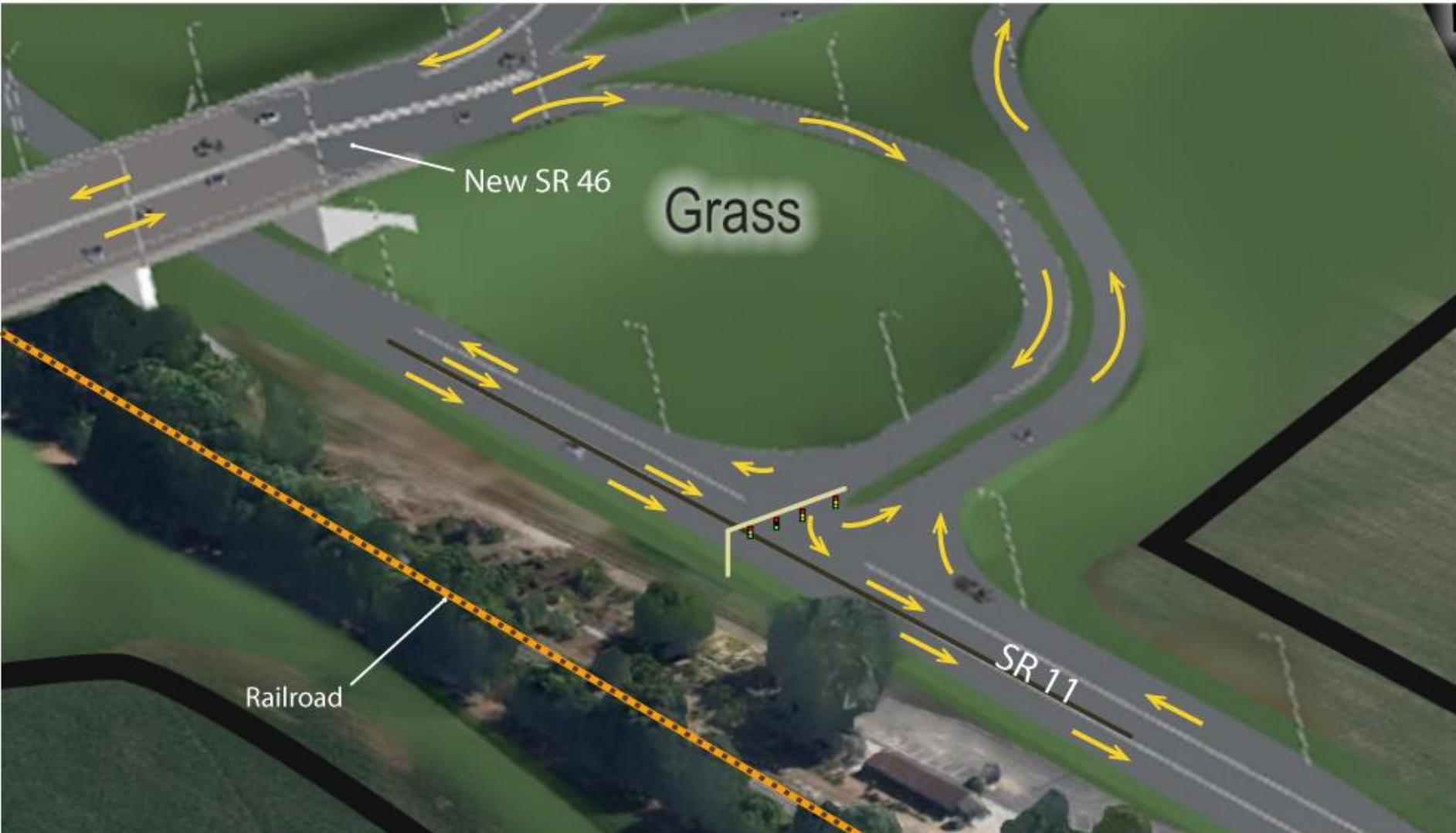
# Overpass with Interchange Alternative (Preferred)



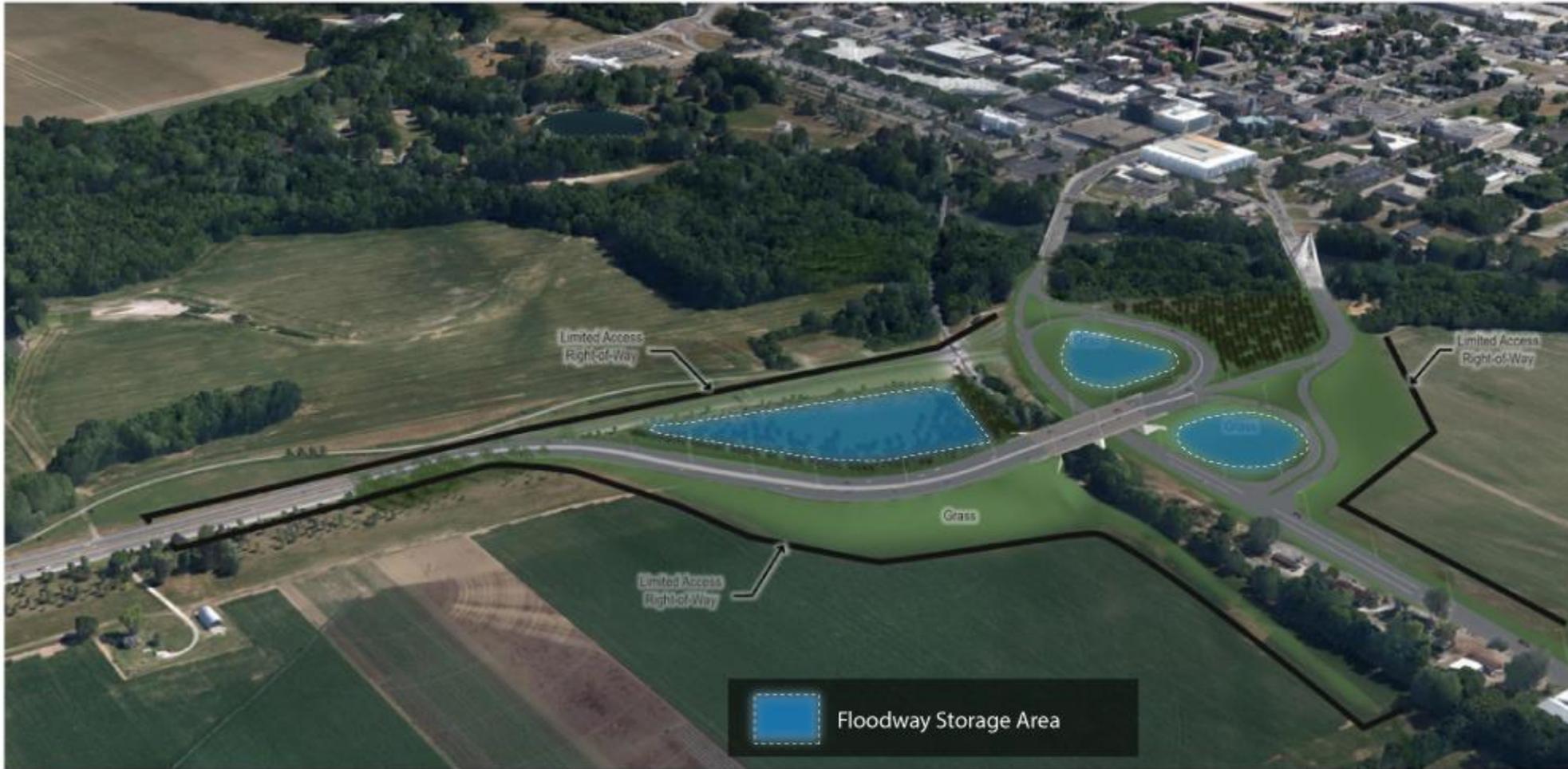
# Overpass with Interchange Alternative (Preferred)



# S.R. 11 at Ramp Intersection



# Drainage



# Mitigation and Aesthetics

- Total Project Tree Removal = 4.9 Acres
- Total New Tree Plantings = 11.3 Acres
- No Impacts to Waterways Protected by the Clean Water Act



**context**  
DESIGN

# Project Cost Estimates

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- INDOT and the City of Columbus have entered into a 50/50 Funding Agreement
- Railroads will contribute 5 percent of project costs
- Project Cost Estimate = \$30 million

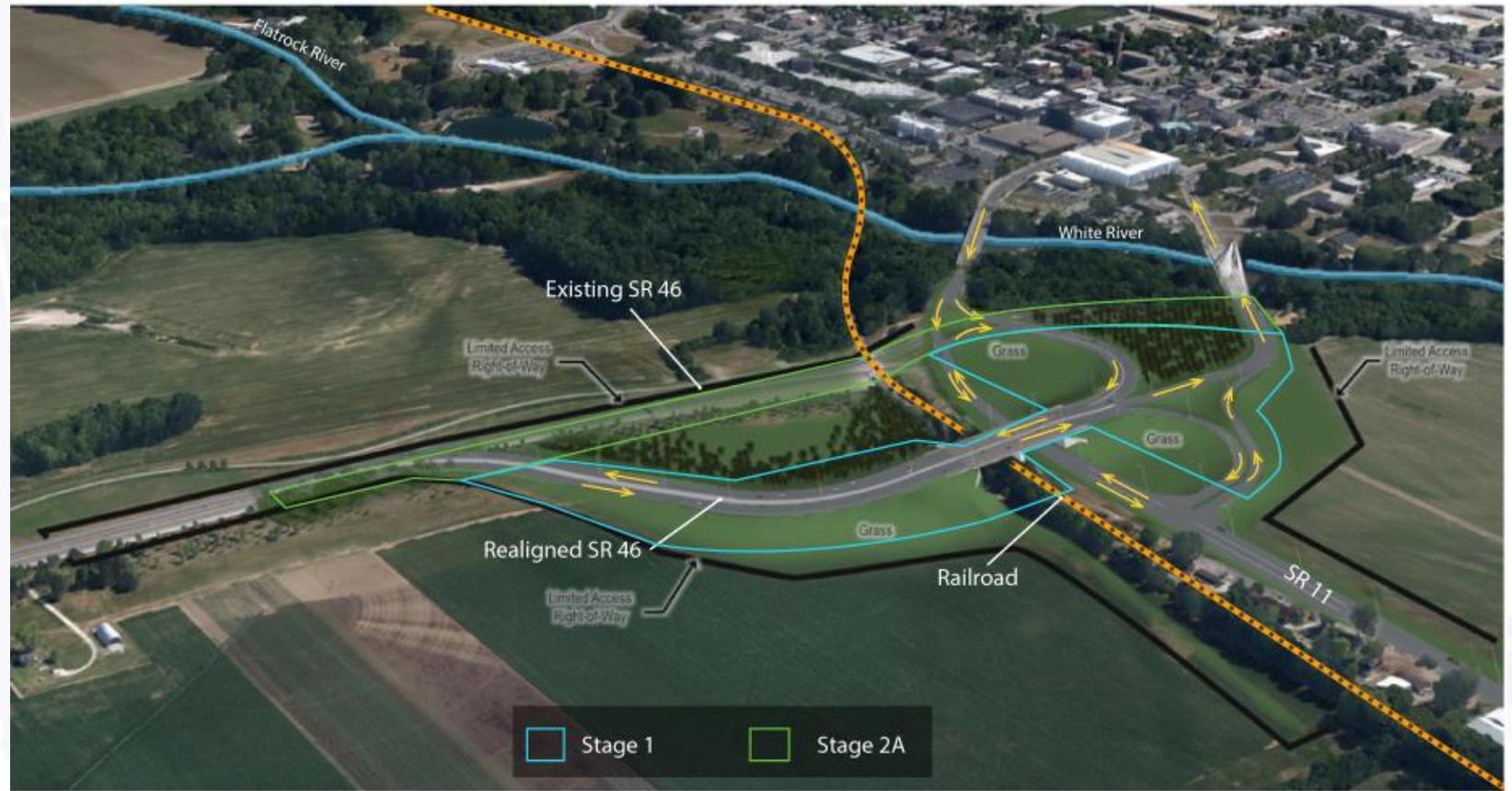
# Traffic During Construction

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- INDOT District Traffic
- City of Columbus
- Bartholomew County
- Bartholomew County School Corporation
- Bartholomew County Fairgrounds
- Columbus Regional Health
- Columbus Police Department
- Columbus Fire Department

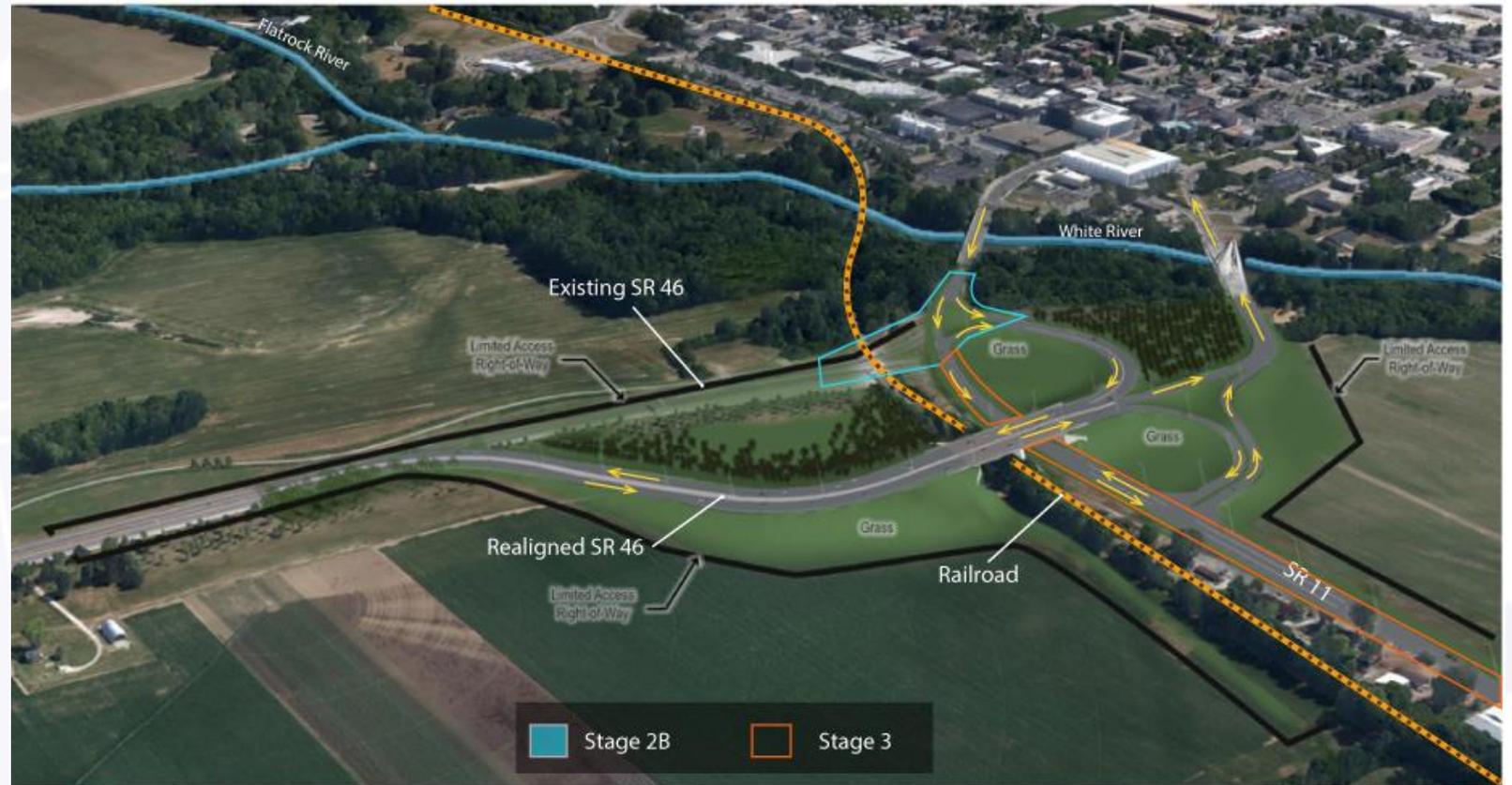
# Traffic During Construction

- Stage 1 – Off-Line Construction
  - Minimal Traffic Interruptions
  - Winter 2019/2020 and Spring 2020
- Stage 2A – S.R. 46 Eastbound
  - Reduced to One Lane
  - Early Fall 2020



# Traffic During Construction

- Stage 2B – S.R. 11
  - Closed & Detoured via I-65
  - Early Summer 2020
- Stage 3 – S.R. 46 Westbound
  - Reduced to One Lane
  - Late Fall 2020
- Interchange Open to Traffic in Spring 2021
- Mitigation in Fall 2021



# Utilities

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- Appox. 2,500 feet of new City water main
- Approx. 4,000 feet of new City force main
- Utility relocations along S.R. 11 scheduled to begin this Summer

# Comment Session

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- No responses at this time.
- Statements are for the official public hearing transcript.
- First speakers are from the sign-in sheet.
- Open for additional public statements from the floor.
- Please come forward to the podium so that we may accurately record your statements.
- We encourage and appreciate your comments.



# Public Comments

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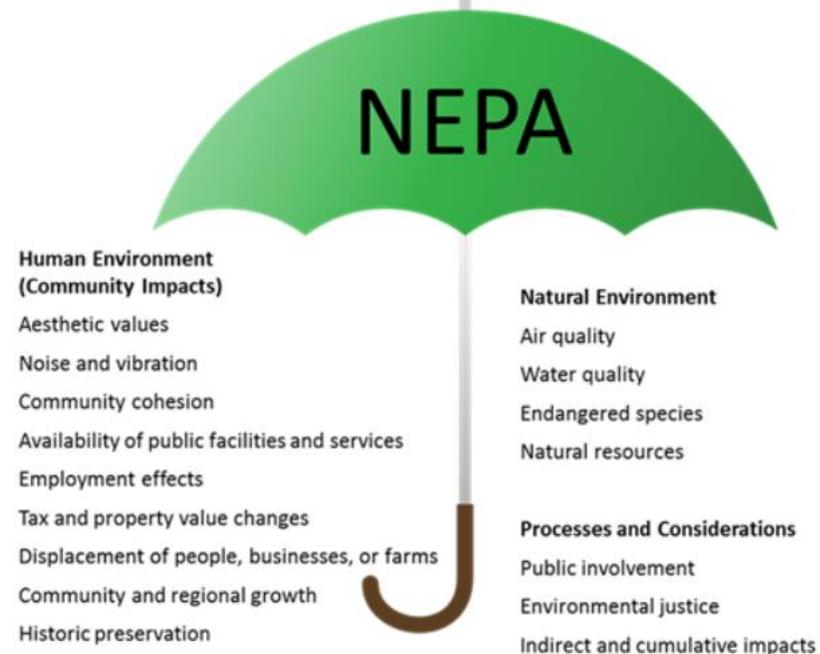
- Statements recorded at public hearing.
- Written Statements
  - Mary Wright  
IGCN Room N642  
100 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46204
- E-Mail – [mwright@indot.in.gov](mailto:mwright@indot.in.gov)
- Respectfully request comments to be postmarked by Wednesday, June 12, 2019.

All comments will be reviewed and evaluated and given full consideration before final design decisions.

# What is Next?

- After Public Hearing and Public Comments
  - Environmental Document Approval
    - Legal Notice published to formally announce the conclusion of the environmental phase.

Human and Natural Environment Issues are Addressed in the NEPA Process



# Thank You

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- Please visit with project officials following the public comment session
  - View displays and preliminary plans
  - Informal questions and answers
  - Informal comments are always welcome, however, please note general conversations are not part of the official record.

Thank you for your attendance this evening.

Formal public hearing is adjourned.